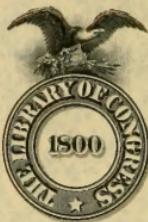


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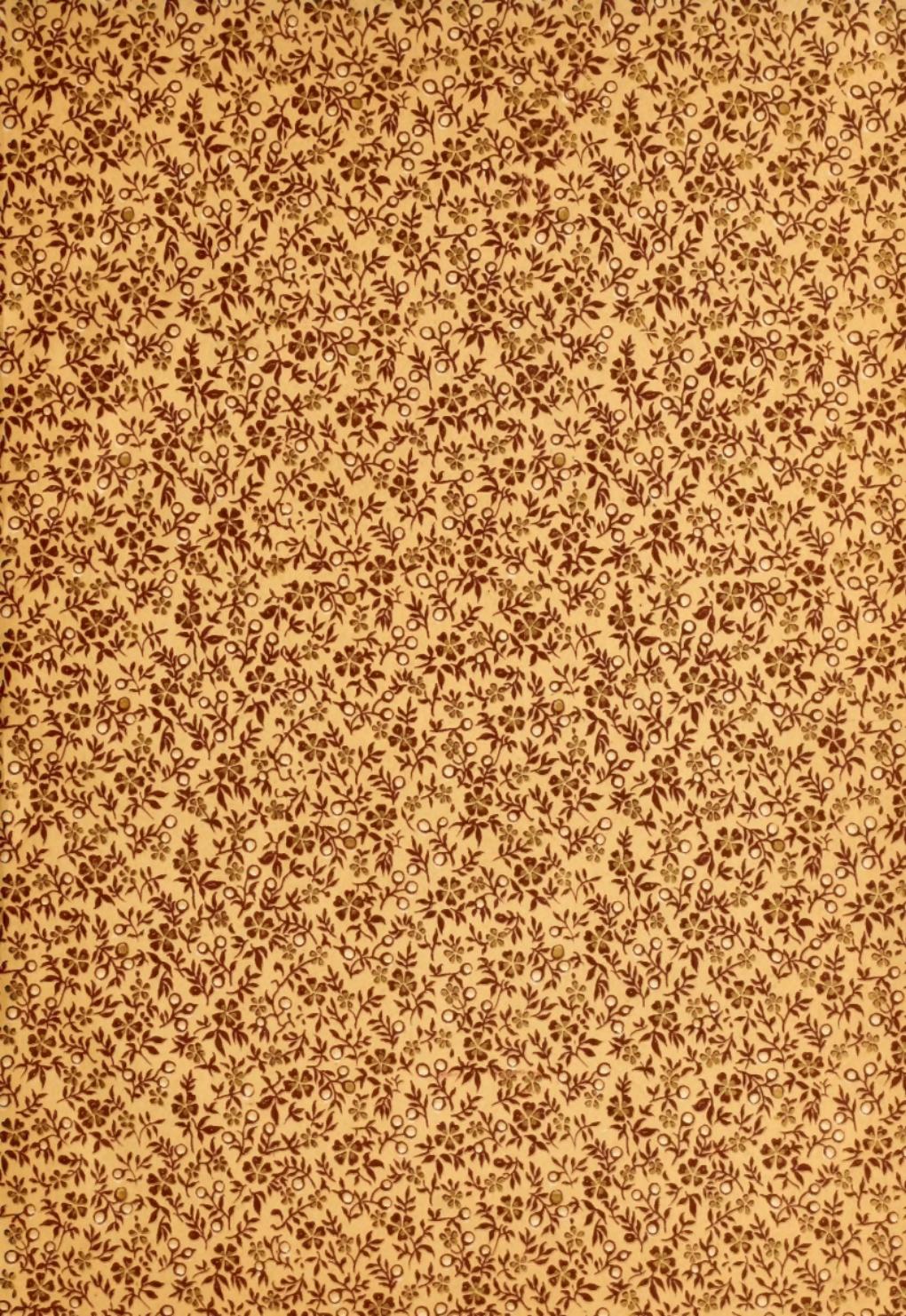


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Diary of
Captain Fabez Fitch.



Fitch, Jabez

Diary of Captain Jabez Fitch

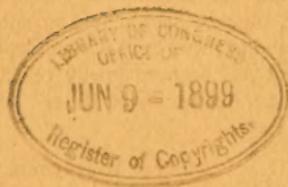
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"THE ELMS,"
HYDE PARK, VERMONT.

MY DEAR MADAM:

In answer to your kind request that I give you all facts in my knowledge which might serve to authenticate the "Narrative of the Prison Ships," which you propose publishing for the benefit of the "Martyrs' Monument Fund," I hasten to state the following points: Capt. Jabez Fitch, the writer of the "Narrative," was my great-grandfather. My father died when all his children were very small. As often happens in such cases, the heirlooms became distributed among other branches of the family, and so in this instance this manuscript passed into the hands of an older member of the family, Mr. Cordilla W. Fitch, who resides in Morrisville, Vt.

Jabez Fitch was born in Norwich, Conn., February 15th (O. S.), 1737. He entered military service when but a youth, was in two or three campaigns in the old French War, and held a commission in the two first campaigns of the Revolution. He was captured on Long Island on the memorable 27th of August, 1776, and endured an eighteen months' imprisonment on the British prison ships, where he contracted a scorbutic complaint which embittered and rendered almost insupportable more than thirty years of his life. Besides this "Narrative" he kept a diary of events for forty years. Part of this journal that was kept during his campaigns in the Revolutionary War was sent to Washington, D. C., during his lifetime, to help him procure his pension, and the family have not been able to recover it. His constant reference to persons and places gives the diary great interest to those who are curious about the history of Connecticut and the early settlement of Vermont. Pardon me for making an extract from journal, written while on his second journey from Norwich to Hyde Park. It shows that Capt. Bissell, too, survived the severities of the British imprisonment and lived in Windsor, Conn.: "Friday, May 23d, 1788.—At 9 o'clock came to Bissell's Ferry in Windsor, where we crossed the river and called on my old friend, Capt. Bissell. Could not stop, but proceeded on our way to Suffield."

The list of grantees of the town of Hyde Park was made up largely of men from Norwich, Conn., among whom was Jabez Fitch, who came here with his three sons in 1788, and made for themselves a home in the wilderness and endured all the peculiar trials and hardships of the first settlers. They first provided a temporary shelter, the next season had a comfortable log house erected. In 1808 the house, still standing, was built where Capt. Fitch died in 1812.

Trusting that what has been so briefly reviewed may be of service in establishing the genuineness of the "Narrative," and therefore helping along your praiseworthy cause, I am,

Very truly yours,

VERNON D. FITCH.

HYDE PARK, VERMONT,
September 23d, 1897.

To MRS. S. V. WHITE, of BROOKLYN, N. Y.,
Chairman Monument Committee.





THE BRITISH PRISON-SHIP "JERSEY."

It is estimated that as many revolutionary heroes died from disease and starvation in the British Prison-Ships anchored in Wallabout Bay, adjoining the present site of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, as were killed in battle during the entire war.

"But of all these terrible prison-ships, the 'OLD JERSEY', the 'Fell', as she was called, was the most noted." She was originally a sixty-four gun ship, which had become unfit for service.

Eleven thousand patriots died in the "Jersey" alone. After the war this old hulk was so eaten with the worms bred by pestilence that she sank where she was anchored, and the names of thousands of her victims sank with her, as it is said that nearly every prisoner found a space somewhere in her timbers in which to carve his name.

Dedicated to all Patriots

who are striving to make still more glorious
our country, in whose cause so many heroes
sacrificed their lives.

Eliza M. Chandler White,
Vice-President Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association.

A Narrative
of the treatment with which
the American Prisoners were used
who were taken by the British &
Hessian Troops on Long Island
York Island &c 1776.
With some occasional Observations
thereon



Home of Jabez Fitch, Hyde Park, Conn.

Dear Bro:

As one of w^t most melancholy Ideas at
tending a State of confinement in daily life
ours, is w^t of being separated from all Con-
nection with those whom w^t laws of Nature
hath made most Desirable & agreeable
to us: & for whose Welfare & happiness
we are naturally fill'd with w^t greatest
Anxiety of mind, but yet are Deprived
even of w^t agreeable privilidge of Intelligen^ce
from them: It may therefore be supposed
that any one who hath fallen into so
unfortunate a Situation, would gladly
embrace an opportunity of communicat-
ing any material Intelligen^ce to a friend
Having according to my Usual custom,
kept a Diary during w^t course of my Captivity,
making a brief memorandum of each Occurrence,

...ings as happen? &c. &c. &c.
any, by w^t help of which, together with
such particular Circumstances as were
yet retained in my Memory &c. I have
form'd the following Narrative & Observa-
tions, with a Design of communicating
them to my Friends at home, if Divine
Providence should present a favourable
Opportunity for ^a purpose; The many
Disadvantages attending w^t Circumstances
of my writing, may be a sufficient Ap-
-polizy for w^t Vulgar & Irregular manner
in which they appear; But as to w^t certain-
ty of Facts therein contained, I have been
myself personally knowing to most of them,
& such as did not happen within my own per-
sonal Observation, I have collected from
Authors

Authors whose truth & integrity is not in
doubt to be doubted

If this should be so fortunate as to reach
you, I hope after reading it, you will com-
municate it to my Family &c, but Deyie
it! it may not be lost or destroyed, as it
may be usefull to me hereafter in
case I should be so happy as to survive
this Captivity. Wishing all happiness
to my Friends in particular, & my Coun-
try in general I am Dear Sir
New-Lotus 2nd J. Your affectionate Bro:
of April 1777. J. F. Fitch
To Disha Fitch Esq:



Shaving cup and strop made by Captain Bissell on board the prison ship Jersey and presented to Mr. Fitch.

A Satire &c.

It appears by various Usage, with
which we have been treated during the course
of our tedious Imprisonment, that Divine Pro-
vidence hath not been more particular in
forming w^t different Features, & various Sta-
tures of Mankind, than it hath been in
the formation of w^t various Dispositions
& Capacitys of w^t mind; Nor doth there
appear to ocular view, a greater Distinc-
tion between w^t well proportioned Courtes,
or Citizens, in a Decent & Beautifully dress'd,
but most deform'd Hessian Butcher, or
American Savage, in their muddering
or hunting Uniforms, than an attentive Observer
may Discover, betwixt w^t Person whose
mind is animat'd with Sentiments of
virtue

Virtue, Humanity and Friendship to
Mankind in genl., and w^t Insolent
Crown who knows no satisfaction, but
in Acts of Cruelty, Slaughter & Rapine,
Each of w^t foregoing Characters, have fre-
quently fell within our observation
during w^t course of our confinement;
The former treating us with Politeness,
Humanity & acts of friendship, Endeav-
ouring to minister to our relief, and
thereby alleviating / as much as possa-
ble / our sufferings; While w^t latter
were ever treating us with w^t most
Savage Insolence, Malice & Cruelty.
Endeavouring to augment / as much as
possible / to make every part of our

sufferings, as great as their narrow Citys could raise them

It also appears, that many with whom we have been concerned, who seem clothed with w greatest appearance of Gentelism, & disposed to shew w greatest acts of Humanity & Friendship: by a short time's experience, are found to have their hearts & Tongues placed at as great a distance from each other, as w Citys of London in Europe, & New York in America: in consequence of which, it hath not been uncommon for us to find, yt on w^r having promises of Assistance & Relief, on any particular exigence, no more hath been seen or heard of w^r fair Promiser / perhaps / for some Weeks or Months; & then if through accident

accident or necessity, they happen to fall in our way, a very slight & evasive apology, is sufficient to justify their neglect of poor Prisoners, who are altogether in their Power; they also seem'd to expect w^t we gratefully acknowledge to them, every favour q^t we receive: even from the Almigh-
ty himself.

It would be impossible to rehearse w^t many instances of insult, with which we have been treated, especially in w^t fo^mpart of our Captivity, when those unthinking Mercenaries vainly supposed they had little more to do, than ravage a rich & plentiful Country. Dejected

by its Inhabitants; or alſo to treat us
(who were fo unfortunate as to fall into
their hands) with as much Infolence
as their narrow, thoſavage Capacitys
were capable of: Yet it ought to be
mention'd, to w^t Honour of ſome ~~the~~
(both of w^t Army & Inhabitants) who treat-
ed us with humanity, & Endeavoured
to protect us from w^t Infults of others;
I myſelf was fo happy, as to fall at
firſt into w^t hand, of a party of this
kind when taken prisoner; It was
part of w^t 5th Regt: who aſſed me
with ſome degree of Civility, altho'
ſome particular Off^rs were very libe-
ral of their favourite Term /Rebel/ &
now b^r there did not forget to kenn me.

me of a halter &c. they did not ^{strip}
^{Clothing} me of any of my, but only took my
Arms & Ammunition, & after keeping
me in w^t Field some time, in confine-
ment with several others, under a
strong Guard, was sent off to Gen^{le}
Grants Quarters at Gowaynes —

In this March we travell'd through w^t
front of several Brigades of Hessians,
who were paraded on several ~~Ridge~~
Eminencies in order of Battle: they
Indeed made a very Warlike appear-
ance, & as no power appear'd at that
time to oppose them, their whole
Attention seemed to ^{be} fixed on us, nor
were they by any means sparing of
their Insults; But their Off^{er} [redacted]

especially, represented to w^e life /as
far as their Capacit^ys would Permit/
w^e conduct of Infernal Spirits, under
certain Restrictions: Having passed
through those Savage Infults, we at
length came onto a hill neare to the
place where we at first Engaged the
Enemy in w^e Morning; we were here
met by a number of Infidele^t Soldi-
ers, among whom was one Woman who
appear'd remarkably Malicious and
attempted several times, to throw
Stones at us, when one of our Guard
Informed me q^t: her Husband had been
kill'd in this Day's Action; We were
then conducted down to a Barn, near

the water side, where we were drove
into a yard among a great number of
Officers & men who had been taken before
us; soon after we came here. Capt. Jew-
ett with a number of others, were
brought in, & confin'd with us; Capt.
Jewett ^{had} two Wounds with a Bayo-
net after he was taken, & Stripp'd of
his Arms & part of his Clothes, one
in a Thigh & other in a Belly, of
which he languished with great pain
untill the third day following when
he Died; Sargt Graves was also stabb'd
in a Thigh with a Bayonet, after he
was taken with Capt. Jewett, of which
Wound he recovered, altho he after-
ward perish'd in Prison with many
hundred others at N. York.

While we were here confin'd, we were
Visited by many Regular Off^rs, by whom
we were ask'd many Questions; some
of them seem'd designed to insult us,
altho' they might think it in a So-
lute manner; one of whom asserted
to us with great Confidence, q^t many
of our principle Off^rs had a permis-
sion from Government, to accept Comis-
sions in the Continental Service etc.

After being some time confin'd in
this Gar'd. Capt: Jewett & some others who
were wounded, were ordered to some
other place in order to have their
Wounds dress'd, & I see no more of
them this Night

When it began to grow dark, a Off^r who

Who were here confined ~~to~~, were Order'd
to an Adjacent Stoufe, where we were kept
confined in a very-dirty Room w^t two
following Days & Nights; while we
were here, we were visited by a num-
ber of Regular Off^r. some of whom
treated us with proper Respect,
and others with mean & low-lived
Insolence. Deffisifg & Ridiculing
w^t mean appearance of, us who had
been strip'd & abus'd by ^{many of} Savages
under their conⁿ., nor did they
forget to Remind us of w^t British
Laws against Rebellion, Treason &c.
with many of their own learned Com-
ments thereon, which did to give
them wonderfull Consolation

Early next morning, Capt. Jewett came
to us in excessive pain with his wounds
which had already been dress'd, but yet
notwithstanding the application of several
of Dr Ennys liniments, especially one Dr:
Horn [a young Scotch Gent:]/ who treat-
ed him with great civility & tenderness;
he languished while the third day fol-
lowing (viz) the 29th of Aug: at about
5 o'clock in the Morning, when he ex-
pired, & was buried in an Orchard
near the house at about 8th of same
morning, with as much decente
as our present situation would Ad-
mit; & myself was indulgd by Gen^l
Grant at the application of Maj^l Brown
who attended us in this place, to attend

the Captain's Funeral; The aforesaid
Maj^r Brown, treated us with w^t greatest
Fivity & Complaisance, during our confine-
ment in this place, & indeavour'd to
make our accommodations, as agreeable
as posseble; Genl Grant also was so
good as to send us / with his Complimently
two Quarters of Mutton well Cook'd,
& several Loaves of Bread, which were
very Acceptable to us, as most of us
had eat nothing since Monday before.

On Friday w^t 29th some time in
afternoon, Maj^r Brown informed us
that we were soon to be sent on Board
w^t Fleet, by w^t Pacific (a large Trans-
port Ship) was prepared to receive
us; About w^t same time, a number

of Officer, & men, belonging to U.S. Navy
came on shore in order to conduct us
on board, & at about 4 o'clock we
were ordered into 4 Boats, being
oblig'd to wade about two hundred
yards, on 4 Islands before we came to
water sufficient to float 4 Boats,
it alſo rain'd very hard most of the
time while we were crossing 4 Bay
for 4 Pacific lay over on 4 other
ſide, close under Staten Island —

The Off^{rs} being about 24 or 25
in number, were carried ſtrigly in
one Boat, & 4 men being between
3 & 4 hundred in several other boats
and had their hair, tied behind them.

In this situation we were carried
by several Ships where there appear'd
great numbers of Women on Deck,
who were very liberal of their Crys-
-ses & Dallocutions; they were also not
a little noisy in their insults, but clapp'd
their hands & us'd other peculiar ges-
-tures in so extraordinary a manner
as they were in some danger of leap-
-ing overboard in this surprising Sta-
-cy; But at length we arrived at
the Pacific, which was a very large
Transport Ship. We clim up her side
& soon after we came on Board, found
that our accomodation, were to be but
very large, for notwithstanding May.^r
Brown had inform'd us while we were

at Gowanus, & t^e w^t Off^m were to have of
Liberty of w^t Cabin b^c yet Mr: Durf^w
Master: of w^t Ship / acquainted us q^t we
were all, both Off^m & men without
Distinction to be shut down below Deck;
Accordingly at about Sunet we were
all drove down w^t Hatch, with as many
vile Curse & Excretions, as q^t Son of
perdition, with his Infernal Understrappers,
could express; When we came down into
this Dungeon, we found but very Indiffe-
rent Quarters, for both w^t lower Decks
were very full of Deit, & w^t excessive Rain.
q^t had fell of late, had drove in so plen-
tifully as to quite cover them, so that
so great a number of men treading w^t
Earth & water together, soon made w^t Master
on.

or near half over ^{our} floo^r; Beside all
those inconveniences, there was no kind
of platforms, or places prepared for our
lodging, but what was so cluttered with
Artillery, Carriages, rough pieces of Timber
riging &c. &c. that there was not a sufficien-
cy of room for a man to lay between
them, nor was there a sufficiency of
room in a whole ship to us, for but
little more than one half of our num-
ber, any how to lay down at one time.
To add yet more if possible to our calamity.
some time in Evening a number of w-
dernal savages came down with a short-
hour, & loaded two small pieces of Cannon
with grape shot, which were placed aft of
a Bulkhead opposite the two Ports; for that
purpose

purpose, in such a manner as to make
w^t Deck where our people lay: telling
us at w^t faire time with many Carfts
w^t: in case of any Disturbance or the
least noise in w^t Night, they were to
be immediately fired on w^t Damned Rabbet

In this unhappy Situation, we passed
three tedious Nights, nor was w^t Daytime
much more agreeable, for altho —
^{were} some of us suffered to come upon Deck
part of w^t Time, yet we were Inflicted
by those Blackgard Villians, in a most
vulgar manner; Nor was our accommo-
dation or act^t of Provision much unfe-
meler to our other Passage, specially
in w^t Necessary Article of Water, of which
we

we were not allowed any of it was fit for
a Boat to Drink, altho they had plenty
of good Water on Board, which was used
plentyfully by w^e Seamen etc —

The next morning after we came on
Board this Ship, we found there was one
Lieut Dowdswell, with a party of Marines
sent on board for our Guard; this Mr.
Dowdswell treated us with considerable
humanity, & appeared to be a Gentleman,
nor were w^e Marines in Gen^l or so insolent
as the Ships Crew —

While I was here confin'd. I requested
one Spence / w^e Mate of w^e Ship / to do me
w^e favour of laying away a Regimen-
tal Coat & Hat / which belonged to w^e
late Capt Jewett / in some safe place.

for I might have them again when
I should be removed to any other place,
on which he had it impudence to
inflict me in a most rude manner.
& swore by his Maker &c no Damn'd
Rebels clothes should ever be found
in his possession; but yet it seems
& notwithstanding this firm Reso-
lution, his mind soon altered; for
although I kept a most critical
watch over those articles, together
with my own watch coat, which I
could not conveniently wear in Day
time, yet among those artful Thiefs,
they were stole from me on Decr. 2.
when search was made for them, I by
the

the generous assistance of Mr. Dowdwell
found them all in a Guardroom, in
immediate care of this good Mr. Spencer
who had been so peculiarly cautious
in meddling with Hiebbel's Clothing —

On W^{ed} 31st. M^r. Loring (Commissary
of Prisoners) came on Board, & took
down w^e names & rank of Officers,
& names of w^e men; he treated us with
complaisance & gave us encouragement
of further indulgence; he also informed
us w^e: Col: Clark & many other of our
Off^{rs} were taken & confined at Flat-
bush. & w^e: a ship would soon be pro-
vided for w^e reception of all w^e Off^{rs}.
So w^e: they might be by themselves, &

not crowded with w^t Privates without
Distinction

Untill now we had been made to
believe q^t we were to be sent home
to Europe in Confinement, & that no
Cartell for Exchange of Prisoners, would
be Admitted, but we soon found the
gross Representation, of those Sons of
Halfblood, to be so very Extraordinary, q^t
no dependance might be had on any
of their Assertion, : For we were inform'd
by them q^t they had taken three thou
sand of w^t American Prisoners, in w^t
Action of w^t 27th, beside great numbers
killed, which we knew to be a larger
number than we had that Day Engag'd
^{than}

in his Convoication, but yet not so Gre-
asly Insolent & void of all humanity
& Generosity as Mr. Dur, who command-
ed w^e Pacific). But we soon found our
selves more crowded here, than we had
been before, this Ship not being more
than half so large as another, on which
acc^t most of w^e Off^r among w^e Prisoners
Lodged on w^e Quarter Deck, & indeed we
thought this privilege a considerable
piece of Indulgence, altho some nights
we were considerably wet with the ~~the~~
Rain &c.

The same day w^e were remov'd
on board of Lord Northford, they hove
up & fell down through w^e narrow

after which she came too in w^t Bay,
off against New~~Street~~ Meeting house,
where she laye while after w^t King's
Troops tooke possession of N. York —

Sept^r: 3rd many of us wrote to our
Friends in w^t American Army, with
expectation of sending our Letters by
a Flag. of Truce, which we had w^t pro-
mise of being favour'd with; but our
Letters (most or all of them) somehow
fail'd reaching our Camp; for though
w^t Off^r confirm'd in other places, after-
wards Rec^r their Baggage &c in con-
sequence of this Flag yet we who
were confirm'd on board this Ship, Rec^r
none of ours; But my own im^perative
ca

peculiar was unfortunately lost in our Army's Retreat from New York, (as I was afterward informed) —

This day our Offrs who had been confined at Flatbush, were brought on board ^{Snow} W^m Mentor, which lay nigh to us, and with which we were all too well acquainted, afterward, for on w^m 5th we were removed on board this Snow, which was our Prison for a long time. Our accommodations here were but very indifferent, altho much better than we had had, in either of w^m other Ships, for we were now but about Ninety in number, & y^r Field Off^r had liberty of w^m Cabbin &c, altho w^m other Offrs had no other place for lodg^rg, than forward of w^m Stearage, between

Decks, & there but very scant room for
all to lay down at w^e same time.—

This Slave was commanded by one
Davis, (a very worthless cowlicked fellow,) yet
happy for us. his capacity was
not sufficient to do any one much hurt
yet we were now & then under an necessity
of holding a severe struggle with
him on many occasions; We had also
a Guard of Marines constantly on board.
by whom we were some time, highly
inflicted.

When we first met on board the
Mentor, we spent considerable of our
time in relating to each other w^e per-
ticular circumstances of our first being
taken, & w^e various treatment, with
which

which we met on yt occasion, nor was
this a disagreeable Entertainment in our
Melancholy Situation —

But it seems that most of y^t Officers
& men who were first confined at Flat-
bush, fell into w^t hands of w^t Hessian Troop,
& were generally treated in a more Savage
manner / if possible / than we who were
first confined at Gowanus, & had been
most of us taken by w^t British Troops,
& although many had been both Robb'd
& Murder'd by them, in a most scandalous
manner, yet it is said y^t w^t Hessians
generally treated those who fell into
their hands, with more cruelty and
Insolence than w^t Britons; for it seems
y^t w^t Hessian Off^r? / thought of never p

high Rank^T) were not inactive in this
ridiculous practice of stripping, robbing,
insulting & murdering w unfortunate
Americans, who fell within w limits
of their power: The present appearance
of our Off^{rs} and men, are an Incontrover-
sible proof of those facts, for many of
them yet remain almost destitute of
Clothes, several having neither Britches
Stockings or Shoes; many of them when
first taken were stripped entirely naked

^{altho'}

* Corp^l Raymond of w^t 17th Reg^t after be-
ing taken & stripped, was shamefully insulted
abused by Gen^l Dehightter (in his own
Parson) who was so lowlived as to seize Ray-
mond by w^t hair of his head, throw him on
the Ground &c

altho' some other, present, who had
some small degree of humanity in
their composition, were so good as to
favour them with some old dirty
wornout Garments, just sufficient
to cover their nakedness. & in this
situation we were made Objects of
the Decile for w^d Diversions of those
Foreign Butchers —

One Sam Salmon, (an Indian fellow
belonging to w^d 17th Regt) after he
was taken & stripped by w^d Barbarians,
was set up at a small distance as
a mark for them to shoot at for
Diversions or practice, by which he
Received two severe wounds, one in w^d Neck.

to another in W Arm, but altho' it
appear'd w^t their Skill in w^t use of fire-
arms was not sufficient to Dispatch
him in w^t way, yet it afterward Ap-
pear'd w^t they were sufficiently Skilled
in w^t fine Art of Starving with Hunger
Cold &c, to Destroy him with many hun-
dred others who perifled in N York —

On 26th Gen C Woodhull of W Long-
Island Malitia, was sent from NY Mentor
to W Hospital at Newstreet; he was
an aged Gentleman, & was taken by
party of w^t Enemys Light Horse at
Jamesca, & although he was not taken
in Arms, yet those Bloodthirsty Savages
cut & wounded him in w^t head, & other
parts

parts of w^t Body, with their Swords, in
a most inhuman manner, of which
wounds he died at w^t Hospital; and
altho' w^t Directors of those Affairs, took
but little care to preserve his Life, yet
they were so generous to his Lady, as
to Indulge ^{her} with liberty to carry home
w^t Generals Coffe, and bury it with
Decence.

Soon after this there was a new Di-
~~rector~~-position made of w^t Prisoners
w^t Europeans being assigned a Ship by
themselves, most of whom were soon
after compelled to enlist into w^t King's
Army; many of w^t Americans were off
afterwards

afterward confined by hunger and other
cruel usage from the hands of those treacherous
Barbarians, to follow the example of the
Europeans, & for want of present sustenance
undertake in the Inhuman & Scandalous
Employment of Butchering their Countrymen.
A memorable Specimen of this was exhibited
not long before they were set on Shore
at N. York, when they were kept several
Days without any Provision at all, and
for a full term of nine Days, not suffered
the Privilege of any fire to cook what little
provision they had.

On the 12th night of the Officers who were
Prisoners there was a considerable Quantity of
Baggage &c in Consequence of late Flag
which

which had been sent to N. York at our
Request; but I myself, with 4 other four
Off^rs of our Regt, who had been first
sent on board W Pacific, did not receive
a single Article, by which we conclude
d^d w^t our Letters had miscarried & of
Consequence our Friends had no knowledge
whether we had been killed or taken in
W late Action —

While we lay confind at this place
we frequently heard a heavy firing
of Cannon up toward W City, but more
Especially on W 15th of Sept: when there
was a very Extraordinary Cannoneade, &
we were soon after informed w^t W Kings
Troops this day landed on York Island —

On Saturday ~~we~~^{it} at about 10 o'clock in
the morning, we observed a very confida-
ble light to W Northward, which we sup-
pos'd to be a burning of some Buildings,
as it continued while after Daylight.
It was then succeeded by a very great
smoke which lasted most of the Day, we
concluded that the fire must be in the
City of N. York: This conclusion was soon
after confirm'd by many reports which
we heard, with the most gross & futile
representation of the circumstance of this
Miserable Catastrophe, when it was
asserted to us with great confidence,
that the Rebels (as they insolently call them)
had

had set fire to w^t City, & in great numbers
of them were detected in w^t very Act, ma-
ny of whom were immediately hang'd
on w^t spot, & others committed to Prison
in order for Tryal, who would Undoubt-
edly be put to Death with more formality;
These & many other such false &
Futile Representations, were made to us
on this Occasion; without considering w^t
w^t Americans might have Destroyed w^t
Town, if they had been so inclined, without
w^t least hazard, but a few days sooner,
while it was yet in their own Possession;
nor was this futile Accusation propaga-
ted by w^t Vulgar & Ignorant only, but
Genl. Robertson himself was please'd to

intimate something of it, in a Proclama-
tion which I send some time after,

although he might with equal Truth
& propriety have accused w Americans,
with being w Occasion of w Eclipse of w
Sun, on w 9th of Jan^r following ——————
^{which happened}

While we lay thus confin'd, we were
also favour'd with w Heraul of Gov^r &
Genl. Howe's famous Proclamation, pro-
mising to all Americans / on certain con-
ditions / w Indulgence of full Power
& Priviledge of Resistance &c; But this
Proclamation it seems was for a limited
time, yet his Majestys Commissioners,
on w Expiration thereof, were graciously
pleas'd

pleas'd to renew it for the full term
of fifty Days longer —

On Sunday 5th 22nd. all 2 Ships which
had Prisoners on board. together with w
Experiment & Resolution (Men of War)
mould up through w Narrows. & came
too off between Redhook & Gibbet Is-
land, in w Centre of a great number of
Men of War & Frigates. among whom were
w Eagle, w Rainbow &c. so w t ~~for~~
it seems we were now sufficiently
guarded against any kind of casualty.
Except Infilt, hunger, sickness or Death —

We were now in plain Sight of w
City. & had a particular prospect of
w Part where w late Fire had been.

Though it made but a very desolate
a melancholy appearance —

On Monday 23rd we observed the
enemy were very busy in transpor-
ting Troops &c over into N Jersey: w.
Americans having a considerable Camp
at this time at Bergen / a small Town
up a little ^{distance} from N Water / they had
also some small Redouts or Batterys
from which we frequently observed
the firing of Cannon &c but never
learnt w consequence: While we lay
here we also observed w enemy's De-
stroying w Works which we had de-
nected at the hook, they set fire to
them

them about this time, which burnt
for several days.

We were also about this time informed
of a number of Prisoners, who had been
Brought from Quebec, were soon to be
sent out on Exchange; This Intelligence
gave us some gleam of hope, that in
our turn we should be indulged with
the same favour, although we have
since found (to our sorrow) that those
affairs have been conducted with the
greatest Partiality.

On Tuesday Octr. 1st all 4 Ships &c
had Prisoners on board, with the following
station (Man of War) moved up North River.

as far as opposite to W. Colledge, where
they came too, & lay awhile after the
Prisoners were landed at N. York

We this Evening rec'd Orders to be in Readiness
to land next morning, although we were held
in suspense while w^t Monday following 6th next
day Capt: Davis ordered a large cable coiled
away in w^t place where we had lodg'd. so
4th a number of us, had no other Lodging in
five following Nights, than on this cable,
which was much more uncomfortable than
w^t Deck itself: The Seamen abt this
time began to overhaul w^t Hold, & hauled out
great numbers of large water Buts, which had
lain there many Years, & by striking out the
water w^t Mud, w^t Decks were kept continually
over w^t, while we remained on Board; The weather

weather at this time being chilly & cold,
our circumstances were now rendered much
more disagreeable than usual —

On Sunday 1st A^u there was a number of
Ships came up to Town, which we suppose had
newly arriv'd; many of them had Troops on
board. & we observ'd w^t landing a number
of light Horse from them: we were also soon
after inform'd of t^e w^t King's Army about this
time rec'd a considerable reinforcement: a-
mong whom fit was said) was a Regt: of Hal-
steckers, several of Hanoverians & Brunswick-
ers: we were also inform'd of t^e Genl^{ll} Kniphau-
son of w^t Hessian, arriv'd about this time —

On Monday 2^d A^u at about 4 o'Clock in the
Afternoon, we were disembark'd & landed
at w^t Ferry flairs, near w^t Bair Market,
where we remain'd on w^t Wharf waiting

for directions from ^{the} Commissary, while
near sunset, when Mr. Long conducted us up
to a very large house, on the west side of
Broadway, & in the corner south of Warren street
near Bridewell; where we were assign'd a
small yard back of the house, & a Stoop in the
front, for our Walk; we were also indulg'd with
liberty to pass & repass to an adjacent Pump
in West Street.

We had sign'd a Parole before we left New York
but yet were not indulg'd with liberty to walk
out, while after a sitting of Fort Washington
so that we were confin'd close in this place
near five Weeks; & altho' the Provisions furnished
us by the Commissary, were insufficient to pre-
serve the connection between Soul & Body, yet
the charitable People of this City were so good as to
assist

afford us very considerable relief on this acc't:
but it was w^t poor & those in low Circumstan-
ces only, who were thoughtfull of our Nece-
ssities, & provisions were now grown scarce &
Excessive dear, so wt it was impossible for
them to furnish a sufficiency for w^t whole
number of Prisoners, yet their unparalleled
generosity, was undoubtedly w^t happy means
of preserving many Lives, notwithstanding
such great numbers perished with Hunger.

When we first came to this house, we
found here a number of American Offrs
who had been made Prisoners since we
were, among whom were Col: Selden, Col:
Start, Col: Moulton &c; they had been first
confined for several days, in w^t City Hall,
but some time since were removed to

this place: Col: Selden had been some time sick of a Fever; of which he Died y^r Friday following, at about 3 o'clock in y^r Afternoon, his Corpse was provided with a Coffin, and decently Buried in y^r New Brick Churchyard y^r next Day. most of y^r Offrs: who were Prisoners. were indulg'd with liberty to attend his Funeral; In y^r latter part of his Sickness. he was attended by one Doct: Thatcher of y^r British Army, whose humanity & Attention to him, & several other Gent: who were sick in this place, ought to be remembered with gratitude.

Those Gent: having been made Prisoners near twenty days, later than we were, were able to give us very considerable Intelligence from our Army; they gave us a particular acc^t of their retreat.

Retreat from Long Island &c. which had been
performed with much less loss, than had been
represented to us before; they also informed us
of the Death of Maj^t Chapman & some others
who were killed in the Action of the 13th of
Sept^r; when they were made Prisoners in our
Army's Retreat from N. York —

When we were first confin'd at this time,
great numbers of inhabitants of the
City, were imprisoned (chiefly) in consequence
of false & injurious imformations, by their
Malicious Neighbours, but time soon dis-
covered the Fraud & Malignity, of those Zealous
Informers, who were afterward treated with
the greatest Contempt, & their Conduct
was justly reviled, & their honest Neighbo^rs
were set at liberty from their unjust
Cognovit: a similar Plan of Policy after-
ward

ward appeared in N Jersey, while the
Kings Troops made such rapid progress,
in y^t State after the taking of Fort Wash-
ington etc, when w pretended friends to
British government, in order to recom-
mend themselves to favour with y^t party,
in w present Contest, seized on their hor-
nest Neighbours, brought numbers of
them Prisoners into N York, pillaged their
houses, & Confiscated their Estates; yet
Justice seems soon to pursue them in this
Zealous Innuie, when w American Army
perusing y^t of w Europeans, takes posse-
sion of w Dwelling, of those Malignant
Troys, Devoting their Estates to y^t opinion &c
of Defending their Countries just Rights &
Libertys; & altho many of their Persons were
to

so lucky as to escape w^t just rage of their
injured Countrymen, yet were obliged to seek
away into New York for w^t protection of w^t
^{Brook,} Kings; and are now Reduced from a state
of affluence, to a very scanty subsistence
or want of w^t necessary supports of life;
and are also become Objects of Contempt
& Infamy, to w^t British Army, while every
honest American views them with w^t great
abhorrence & Detestation —

About w^t time we were landed in N. York,
Genl. Howe having made several unsuccess-
ful attacks on Fort Washington & w^t adjacent
lines of w^t American Army, removed w^t main
body of his Troops up Dart River, landing
them at or near West Chester, from whence
they proceeded to w^t White Plains etc —

During & before? movements of w Army
we heard a great variety of reports, generally
greatly to w disadvantage of w Provincials:
But it seems there was no considerable num-
ber of Prisoners bro't into w City, while af-
ter w taking of Fort Washington although
there were great numbers of wounded (both
of British & Hessians,) who were generally con-
vey'd to w Hospitals in w Night season:
yet notwithstanding all their endeavours
to secrete their bad success, it appear'd
by credible information, & soon after w.
taking of Fort Washington, their numbers
of wounded in w Hospitals here & on Long
Island, did not amount to less than two thousand;
or of consequence we concluded they
must needs have had some killed, so w the
advantage

Advantages they had obtained, could not be
without very considerable loss —

On Saturday Nov 21st early in the morning we
heard a heavy canonade up to Wth Northward,
which ~~had~~ continued a considerable time.

soon after which we were inform'd again^t:
^{with a great number of Prisoners}
Fort Washington was taken by Wth Kings Troops;
But as we had heard of same Report many
times before, we at first gave but little
credit to it, yet we soon after found it to
be too true, S^r Monday following Wth Prisoners
were brought into Wth City, where they were
confined in Bridewell & several Churches;
some of them were soon after sent on board
a Ship for confinement: And on Tuesday
Wth 19th a number of Wth Officers were sent
to Wth place of our confinement, among
whom were Col: Hawlings Col: Hobby Maj:²
Williams &c, Hawlings & Williams were

wounded; there was also some other wounded Officers brought here, among whom was one
Lieut: Stanhope (a young Gent: from Virginia)
who was shot through the Shoulder with a
Musq: Ball, of which wound he died ^{2nd} of Dec:

By those Gent: taken at Fort Washington,
we rec'd some late Intelligence from our Army,
& among other important events, they acquaint
ed us w^t the Death of Col: Knowlton (a very
usefull Off: who was kill'd in an action
on York Island ^{w^t 16th of Sept:} _____

During our confinement in this house, we
were often treated with the greatest Insolence
by w^t King's Troops; & many of the charitable
Inhabitants, who attempted to afford us
Assistance, were also insulted, & frequently
denied admittance when they came to visit
us; we were also often insulted in w^t most
low-lived manner, by those who pretended to be

be friends to Government, and by worthless Refugees of our own Countrymen, who exercised their forked tongues, as a continual scourge for us after we were admitted to Parole —

Nov? 20th most of w^d Off^{rs} who were now Prisoners, were indulged with liberty to walk w^d Streets &c within w^d Bounds of w^d City from sunrise to sunset; which Indulgence was continued as long as we remained in w^d City; Nor was this enlargement at all disagreeable, as we had suffered almost three months in close Imprisonment, great part of which time, we had been in w^d most disagreeable situation; But yet we frequently met with insults in w^d Streets, and when we visited those friendly People who had aided us with humanity, & visited us in our close confinement, they were often

Expelled on our Acc't.

Having obtained Favors? indulgence, & first
Objects of our Attention, were of poor men who had
been unhappily captivated with us: they had
been landed about ^{Time} of same⁴; we were, & con-
fined in several Churches & other large Buildings
and altho' we had often Rec^d? Intelligence
from them, with w^t most deplorable Repre-
sentation of their miserable Situation, yet
when we came to visit them, we found their
sufferings vastly superior to what we had
been able to conceive, nor are words suffi-
cient to convey an Adequate Idea of their
unparalleled Calamity: Well might the
Prophet say, "They ^{w^t} be slain with Hunger,
are better than they ^{w^t} be slain with hun-
ger: for these pine away &c." Their appear-
ance in gen^l: rather resembled dead Coffets,
than living men: Indeed great numbers had

already arrived at their long home, and the remainder appear'd far advanced on their Journey; their accommodations were in all respects, vastly inferior to what a New England Farmer would have provided for his cattle, & altho' the Company pretended to furnish them with two thirds of the allowance of the Kings Troops, yet it was often observed, that they were cheated out of one half of that. They were also many times entirely neglected from Day to Day, & Rec'd no provision at all; they were also frequently imposed upon in regard to Quality, as well as Quantity of their provision, especially in the necessary article of Bread, of which they often Rec'd such rotten, & mouldy stuff, as was entirely unfit for use.

There was indeed pretensions of accommodations for the sick & a large number of the most feeble were remov'd down to a Quaker Meeting

house on Queen Street, where many hundred of them perished, in a much more miserable situation than of dumb Beasts, while those whose particular business it was to provide them relief, paid very little or no attention to their unparalleled sufferings; This house
^{was under} I understand, & superintendance of one Doct^r. Debukle, who was an European born, but had dwelt many years in America, & had been (at least), once convicted of Stealing, in consequence of which (not finding the Country very agreeable for his profession) he, with many others of like character had fled here for protection; It was said
that this fellow often made application of his cane among the sick, instead of other medicines.

Nor was there any more solemnity or ceremony bestowed on those miserable sufferers,
after

after they were dead, than while living, for
their Bodys. were thrown out on the ground,
where they lay almost naked, exposed to
the Weather / tho never so Stormy & / Indeed
it was said w^t some of them were exposed
to the unnatural Devouring of Swine & other
greedy Animals, in a most inhuman &
ridiculous manner; however this might
be, they were most of them Buried, altho'
it was in a manner very uncommon
for the Interment of human Bodys, many
of them being thrown into the ground in
a heap, almost naked, where they were
slightly cover'd over with Earth. —

Although this Beastly treatment of those
senseless Corpses, does not affect their persons,
yet when consider'd in connection with their
Usage of the living, it shew's a unnatural, &
savage & Inhuman Disposition of the Enemy
into whose hand we are fallen; & whose

Character / notwithstanding all their boasts
of dignity & humanity / will bear a just
comparison to those whose tender mercies
are cruelty —

When we attempted to visit w^t Prisoners,
at w^t Churches, in their miserable Situa-
tion, we were frequently Repuls'd & deny'd
Admittance by w^t Guard, who often treat-
ed us with w^t greatest Insolence, driving
us back with their Bayonets, Swords, or
Canes; Indeed I have often been in danger
of being stabb'd, for attempting to speak
with a Prisoner in w^t Guard —

There was no considerable number of Pri-
soners sent out while about w^t 24th of
Dec^r ; when a large number were embark'd
on board a Ship in order to be sent to
NewEngland; what privates of w^t Reg.
Remain'd living, were included in this

number, but about one half of them had already perished in Prison; I was also afterward informed, that the Winds proving unfavourable & their accomodation & provision on board of Ship, being very similar to what they had been provided with before, a large proportion of them yet perished before they could reach New England: so that it is to be feared, but very few of them lived to see their native homes —

Soon after the afores^d Ship sail'd for N. England, there was large numbers of Prisoners sent off by Land, both to the Southward & Eastward, so that when the Officers were remov'd over onto Long Island in the latter part of Jan^r, there remained but very few of us privates in the City, except those who had been releas'd from their miserable confinement by Death, which number

number was supposed to be about eighties
hundred

It may be observed by Genl. Robertson
(so famous for Politeness & Humanity)
was commanding Off^r: at New York, during
the afores^t treatment of Prisoners.

It was said by Governor Schenck (who
had been long confined Prisoner in Connec-
ticut) was so humane as to visit the
Prisoners at all hours, & manifested great
dissatisfaction at their ill usage. & also
several other Gent^r of the British Army
had signified a same Disapprobation of
their ill treatment: yet I was never
able to learn that w^e poor suffered
any advantage thereby.

Nov^r: 25th. M^r Murphy, a sick Corp
who had belonged to Brookline, on Long
Island, & had been taken up, on acc^t.

of being Unimical to his Country, & lately
confin'd at Newick in Connecticut, but
had obtain'd liberty to return to this
City on Parole of honour, under pretence
of furnishing a number of Prisoners
here. who belonged to γ^t Neighbourhood,
with Necessaries for their Support, I my-
self being included in γ^t afores^t number;
This M^r: Mapellye came to our Quarters
& treated us with great Complaisance
making us many fair promises of af-
fording us Assistance & Relief; but as he
had but just arrived, he might have as
little time to make γ^t necessary prepa-
ration for γ^t purpose, & would call on us
again very soon —

Soon after this w^t New England Officers,
having Rec^t but very little Left from their
friends in γ^t Country, since they had been

Captivated, & most of them who had With
es & other valuable Articles which had
escaped w^t pillaging of w^t Troops; had been
obliged to dispose of them, to procure w^t
Necessary supports of life, w^t poor men
confined in w^t Churches &c, being in a
perishing condition for want of support;
The afores^t Officers therefore requested li-
berty for one of their number to go home
on Parole, to procure money &c for w^t
whole; & in consequence of this Request,
Maj^r Wells was indulged with liberty to
go to Connecticut for w^t purpose, & the
Officers wrote to their friends, by him, for
such assistance as they thought would be
needfull: but we who had rec'd such fair
promises from M^r Chapellye, wrote to our
friends, w^t we had dependance on him for
assistance.

assistance; but I have not yet been able
to learn, w^t this fair prouisor hath ha^d
any other attention to his Engagement,
than to renew w^t ly a, often as any ap-
plications hath been made to him by
w^t off^m, for assistance; & although some
of our Friends were so good as to send
us some relief by Maj^r Wells, notwithstanding
standing our Dependance on M^r Rapellye,
yet we might have all perished, for all
any assistance from him; But yet it
seem, w^t his conduct is all of a piece for
I understand w^t he has paid no more
regard to his honour, in returning to
Norwich according to his Parole, than he
has to his many promises made to us, for
I am Inform'd w^t he yet remains in New-
York or at Brookline.

I am also Inform'd w^t one M^r Jones of

New York who had likewise been confined
at Norwich with M^r Chapman, & on ye
same acct^t, obtain'd liberty to return
to New York soon after him: & y^t on his
leaving Norwich, he generously offered
his Land Lord (M^r Witter) to afford Assis-
tance to such of d^r Prisoners as he should
recommend for y^t purpose, whereupon
M^r Witter desired him to furnish Sient:
Brewster & another \$100⁰⁰ in Law of his,
(who were then Prisoners in New York)
with such Assistance as their circum-
stances should require, which M^r Jones
engaged punctually to perform, in conse-
quence of which Engagement, M^r Witter neg-
lected to send a sum of money &c, which he
had then prepared for y^t purpose, by Maj^r
Wells, who was then at home, & soon to set
off

off for New York; But he (M^r: Witter) wrote
to Lieut: Brewster by & Major, w^t he might
depend on being supplied by M^r: Jones
according to w^t afores^d Engagement; Yet it
seem, is^t this good M^r: Jones (like his Bro:
Kapellye) when he became Restored to his
Butlership Remembred not Joseph; nor
did he pay w^t least regard to his afores^d
Engagement, for after Lieut: Brewster had
several times applyed for some assistance,
agreeable thereto, he was at length ~~sick~~
inform'd w^t M^r: Jones had Remov'd with
his Family, to w^t Eastward part of Long-
Island

The two foregoing Instances are sufficient
to give a just Idea of w^t honour and Gratitude
of w^t New York Sons;

Nov: 20th Col: Allen came to our Quarter
he had been Employ'd in w^t Northern Army, the
forerain of w^t War, & was taken Prisoner in Jem

part of Canada about fourteen months ago; from whence he was transported to Europe being kept in Irons, / after which he was brought to America while w^t British Fleet lay down at Sandy Hook last Summer, from whence he was sent back to Halifax, & now is again sent back to this place, where he had lately arrived this Day came on Shore: he gave us a particular, & very interesting acc^t of many of his Adventures; and hath since been an agreeable companion to us in our Tribulations —

See? 2nd several Off^r the? Letter, from their General, in w^t American Army, by some of which, we were inform'd y^t some hard money had been prepared to be sent in here for w^t use of some of w^t Prisoners, but y^t w^t Commanding Off^r had refused to suffer it to be brought in: who this one
cant.

sautions American Genl^l. was, we were
not able to learn with certainty, but
whoever he was, we are not greatly ob-
liged to him, for his peculiar ~~sign~~
Frugality.

Wth 15th We were informed by Genl^l.
Lee was taken Prisoner, which Report
we gave but little credit to for
several Days, but finally found it
too well evidenced for Disbelief —

On Wth 16th Lt Col^l: Clark of Wth 17th Regt:
Died at about one in Morning; his Corpse
was decently Interred in Evening following, in a
new Brick Church Yard; A large number of Officers
who were Prisoners, attended his Funeral;
He had been sick of a lingering Disorder most
of Time since we were landed from on board
the Mentor —

Wth 17th Doct^r: Thyes, a Prisoner from Connecticut,
was taken Sick of Small Pox at our Quarters; he

was removed a few days after, to an Hospital prepared for its purpose where he died on the day of 29th as I was afterward informed —

The Smallpox now being considerably spread in W^t City, several of us who had not had that infection, Distemper, removed our Quarter to several other places where we thought our selves less expos'd to W^t Infection: & were admitted into W^t Family of our Charitable Friends, where we were entertained as long as we continu'd in W^t City, with W^t greatest humanity & tenderness; although many of us were at present able to make them but a very indifferent reward for their peculiar generosity.

Soon after this, many of our Cff's. who had not had W^t Small pox, took W^t Infection by inoculation, most of whom had W^t Disease very favourably —

Do: 23^d May: Wills returned from Connecti-
cut, & brought considerable sum of money, & some
Clothing for w^t Use of w^t Prisoners; He also Recd:
(by him) a great number of Letters, ^{as well as other valuable Intellig.} from our
Friends in w^t Country. —

After w^t taking of Fort Washington, a consider-
able part of w^t Kings Army crossed North River,
with an intention of trying their fortune
in w^t Jersey; On which w^t Americans evacua-
ted Fort Lee, & retreated before them to w^t
Interior parts of y^t State; But whether this
Retreat was a movement of Necessity, or Policy,
we have not (as yet) been able to learn; al-
though w^t former hath been assigned with great
Assurance in all publications, as well as com-
mon Report here, yet w^t Consequences of this:
movement carrying a very considerable appear-
ance of w^t latter, we yet remain in Doubt. Nor
Indeed do we much care what w^t cause was, since

we have it from good Authority, that w conse-
=quences thereof: hath been favourable to the
Americans, for notwithstanding all our suffer-
ings of every kind, & w tedious delay of our
Exchange &c. yet we esteem ourselves embarked
in w common cause, & expect to stand or fall
with our Country

About w same time q. w afores^d Division
of w King's Army march'd into w Jersey; and
another considerable Division thereof, were embark'd
on Board a Fleet prepared for q. purpose; &
soon after sail'd from this Port; The place of their
destination was for some time conceal'd from
us, but we afterward were inform'd, q. they took
possession of Rhode Island, which w Americans
had evacuated; But yet it seem, q. Gen^l. Howe
found himself under an necessity of recalling
w greater part of thi; Division of w Army, before
the approach of w winter, in order to reinforce w
other

other Division in the Jerseys.

During w^t afores^d movement, the wanted
Insolence of w^t Troops & Touts was, by no means,
at all abated, while they with peculiar sati-
faction were continually using w^t word, Rebel,
with w^t same degree of pleasure & propensity,
as t^e Roman Clergy &c in Europe had done
w^t word, Heretic, in some of w^t late Centurys;
The newspapers, which seem to be w^t only Ori-
gine of these people, & from which they collect
their Articles of Faith, will give a tolerable Idea
of their manner of Adoing &c; for indeed there
appears to be a very considerable degree of
Concordancy, between their Faith & Manners; I
shall therefore Insert a short passage from their
Prophet Hugh Gaine, w^t which is contained in
that part of his Prophecy Dated Dec^r 9th 1776
it is as follows (viz) "It is said by some
persons who have lately seen w^t Rebel Forces,
as! they are w^t most fitful collection of

"Ragged & Distinted Mortals, is it ever fit to be done
in the name of an Army, is not three thousand
even of these are to be found" &c —

But it is to be observed, notwithstanding
this Despicable Representation of the American
Army, from such undoubted Authority, yet
it was but a few days after, when we were
credibly informed, that a whole Brigade of
Hessians, with a considerable number of
British Troops, had been entirely cut off at
Trenton, most of whom were taken prisoners,
with a large quantity of Artillery, Baggage
&c, by this small number of "pitiable
"Ragged & Distincted Mortals," & always: an-
other Game of chance kind had been play-
ed at Princeton, & some other places in that
Neighbourhood, &c, & the whole had been af-
fected without any great slaughter; those
Reports, by various ways & means, soon became
so

so well confirm'd, w^t we could not doubt
w^t Truth of them; then was there some
little silent rejoicing, among us poor Di-
sciple Mortals of w^t Captivity, scattered up
& down in this Scaphan.

Soon after this, viz/ on w^t 8th of Jan^r 1777.
I accidentally happen'd in at a house where
I had often been treated with great civility,
& setting with w^t good Woman of w^t house, &
some others who were also Disciples, (though
privately, for fear b/c) when there came in
an elderly Gent^r, whom I soon discover'd
to be a Chaplain in w^t King's Army, & it
seems by his discourse, w^t he had lately re-
turn'd from w^t Jersey; Indeed it was some-
what of an agreeable entertainment to me,
to sit & silently observe w^t peculiar mixture
of Ignorance, Superstition & enthusiasm,
of this simple Clergyman; competition, while

he with many Artificial Sights, & heavy
Groans related his own personal adventures
since he had left this City: he also gave
some Genl^l. acc^t. of several late actions
had happened in y^t State, w^t truth & verac-
ity of which, I no more doubted, than if
I had read them from w^t prophet St. Gaine.
He represented his own fatigues during those
late movements, to have been so great, y^t,
he had scarcely had opportunity to undress him-
self for Sleep w^t whole time, altho' he had
been out four or five Weeks; b^y t^e he has
not undertaken to preach but once, dur-
ing w^t whole time, & was then fired on
by w^t Rebels before w^t conclusion of Service.
He also informed us y^t a small party of Hym-
ans at Trenton, whose commanding Officer
could not be made to believe y^t they were in
danger, had suffered themselves to be Surprised, &
y^t

that some of them had been taken Prisoners
by w Rebels; & q t w 17th Regt had been att=
tacked at Princeton by a very numerous Ar=
my of w Rebels; But yet notwithstanding
w vast superiority of w latter in numbers,
it could not be said q t they had obtained a
Victory; He then concluded his Narrative in a
very melancholy Tone, & with a countenance
full of artificial Sanctity, offering that
it was to be feared q t this trifling success
of w Rebels, had so elated them; q t it would
have a tendency to instigate w War; & that
he was very apprehensive q t his Majesty's
Commissioner's most Gracious Proclamation,
would be suffered by w Rebels to run out
without their Attention, the Consequence of
which would be very, b*c*, b*c*, b*c*

* But I may here observe, q t I was so fortunate
as to obtain Intelligence by this Gentleman, few:

who had constantly attended him in his late Adventures; & whose appearance in regard to Simplicity, Indeed much resembled η^t of his Master, altho he appear'd to have ten times as much Integrity; This Serv^t gave me the same acc^t of several late actions, η^t we had already hear^d by various ways; & altho' his Master had represented w^r w^t they^t to have made such a stuporous stand before w^r Americans, yet this serv^t inform'd us η^t almost w^r whole they^t had been either kill'd or taken.

But since I have began to introduce those worthy Author's Relation of Facts, I will also proceed to insert another more lengthy Paragraph, from this celebrated one among w^r four hundred & fifty / viz / w^r Prophet St. Gaine, which runs thus: "The Continental Currancy is so junk in its credit, η^t none of w^r Farmers will take it in Connecticut; Necessaries are now only to be obtained by

"by w^t Barter, of Commodities. Salt is not to be
"had in Connecticut under w^t Rate of forty
"Shillings lawfull per Bushel, which however
"must be paid in Produce. They have every
"Prospect of a Famine, as their last Crop of
"Wheat is more entirely blasted than has e-
"ver been known in w^t Memory of Man.

"In short w^t whole Course of things has been
"so much against w^t Cause, & to use the
"Impious expression of one of their Preachers
"before his Audience, it seems as if God almighty
"w^t was really turned Tory." —

I shall only Observe on w^t foregoing Para-
graph, & t^t: although Maj: ² Wells was in Connec-
ticut at w^t time of w^t Date of this prophetic
Declaration, & on his way back to New York
passed through almost w^t whole State, yet
on his Return, he acquainted us with none
of w^t above Facts, but quite w^t reverse; and

also is: we have Repeated by their Intelligence
from undoubted Authors, from those parts,
which perfectly agree with Majors Re-
presentation; so yt on w^ehole we are ~~more~~
somewhat apprehensive yt w^eforegoing
acc^t may possibly be subject to error, not-
withstanding w^e great authority from whence
it comes; & yt since they, "from w^eprophet
"even unto w^ePriest, every one dealeth fal-
"ely" perhaps it is a Lye.

But I shall yet proceed. & extract a 3rd Par-
agraph from this Inexhaustable Fund of
Intelligence, which is as follows, "The cur-
"rent disorder, which has lately very much in-
"fested w^eRebel Army, we hear has break out
"in Rhode Island, & carried off many persons
"belonging to yt Colony, it has one peculiarity,
"like w^eSweating Sickness in King Edward the
"Sixth^r time; for as yt affected English men ^{alone}

"alone in all parts of the World, this Disease
attacks, only Rebels."

As to the Sweating Sickness above referred to, perhaps very few Armies (if any) & have ever appeared on Earth since War was first introduced, could be supposed to be less Infested with any thing of that kind, than the British Troops with their Auxiliaries now in America: But as to the other (viz) the running Disease, perhaps this pious Informer had forgot, or never heard of the peculiar Scene which appeared at Concord in April 1775, & also another more general Attack made by this Disease, on the main Body of the British Army at Boston in March 1776: This Attack was so very general, that it hath been said by some curious Observers, that there was not a single Officer or Soldier

Jan: 20th " Off: who were Prisoners on Parole,
in N. York, Rec'd Order to Remove over to Kings
County on Long Island; A number of the
Southern Off: crossed Ferry w^t same day,
& another party w^t Day following; On the
23rd most of New England Off: crossed w^t
Ferry, & were ordered to Hendon in w^t Town
~~of~~ of Flatbush, where we were Billed
generally by two, or three in a house, as
among w^t Inhabitants. There being yet a
large number of American Off:, they were
Distributed in w^t Towns of Gravesend, Newkirk,
Flatlands & Flatbush. & were Indulg'd with
Liberty of w^t Respective Towns, in which we
were Billed; But a number of w^t Officers,
had not yet Recover'd of w^t Smallpox, & some
were sick of other Disorders, who were Indulg'd
with it.

with liberty to continue in W^t City until they
recovered, most of whom were afterward sent
off to us in several Towns before? —

This new Disposition, was somewhat disagreeable to many of us, as we had now contract^d
a considerable acquaintance in W^t City, &
were most of us in comfortable quarters,
with Families who had treated us with great
courtesy, & shewn us many favours.
We had also had our expectations greatly
raised with hope of a speedy exchange,
which now seemed to vanish, or appear
at a greater distance. There was also
various conjectures in regard to W^t Reasons
of Caus^e of this Removal, some supposing
it to have originated from Malignity
of W^t Sons & Refugees, of whom there was

now great plenty in N^t City, who were conti-
nually discovering their Rage & Disapproba-
tion of every kind of Indulgence allowed of
Prisoners; Others were of opinion ^{that} it was
only design'd for our greater Enlargement,
^{but} we might be accommodated with more
agreeable Quarters than we had yet been
provided with; Indeed it was said ^{that} Gen^l
Howe had lately rec'd a very Spirited Lett^r
from Gen^l Sullivan of American
Army, shewing w^t highest Representat at
w^t Illtreatment of w^t Prisoners, & also threat-
ening to have Recourse to w^t necessary Laws
of Retaliation in case such Usage shoulde
be continued

But whatever might be w^t occasion of
the afores^d Disposition, w^t Consequences thereof
proves

proved favourable to us for being Billitted among w^t inhabitants, as hath already been observed, we generally found ourselves in much more agreeable circumstances, than what we had as yet been indulg'd with; The limits of our Confinement, being much larger than what we had enjoyed in N. York, we were under a greater Advantage for Exercise, and could also visit each other at our pleasure, without Interruption or being exposed to the Savage insults, with which we had been so often treated; For altho in this place of our Confinement, we were not Strangers to this kind of Treatment, yet it generally proceeded from worthless Refugees and Vagrants, who are despised even by w^t Inhabitants & by w^t British Troops themselves: as

in $\frac{1}{3}$ Part of $\frac{1}{3}$ Army $\frac{1}{3}$ escaped Disease.
Nor does it indeed appear $\frac{1}{3}$ of Britains &
Hessians have been perfectly free from
this Disorder, in $\frac{1}{3}$ Jersey, of Winter past,
altho' it might be with gratitude acknowl-
edged, $\frac{1}{3}$ of very humane Applications of
Genl. Washington, hath preserv'd many
of them from that ridiculous Disease, by
an effectual medicine called by $\frac{1}{3}$ name
of Captivity; This Medicine I know to be
somewhat harsh & severe, having taken
an excessive large Portion of it myself:
But however hope $\frac{1}{3}$ they may have a
suitable Preparation of it, & $\frac{1}{3}$ both they
& $\frac{1}{3}$ Americans may receive benefit thereby.

But I shall further observe, $\frac{1}{3}$ there
is no one sort of people within $\frac{1}{3}$ Bounds
of my Observation, $\frac{1}{3}$ have been so much
subject

subject to this running Disorder, as those
called Tays, who have been frequently Obje^c
toed &c idle when none present; and as there are
none who may with so great propriety be
call'd Rebels, as those who are Inimical to
their Country, it is a Question worthy of ob-
servation, whether these may not be within
the meaning of w^e prophet in w^e foregoing
Paragraph; & as it is not uncommon to find
certain Ambiguous & figurative Expressions,
in prophe^ys, & as I mean not to be Dogma-
tical, or over confident in regard to their
Explanation, I shall not therefore undertake
to determine this important Question, but
would rather refer it to w^e Venerable Priest,
whom I have had occasion to mention in
some of w^e foregoing pages, whose wife & learned
Comments on w^e Prophe^ys contained in w^e Prophe^ys of
w^e Prophet Hugh Gairne, might doubtless be very bi-
caable to w^e Confessor.

well as by us; And altho' the Inhabitants are
chiefly Tories, & those who have a highest
opinion of British Government and Ad-
ministration, yet they are of a very passive
Disposition, & not much inclined either to
fighting, or to insult those who dissent
from their Opinion in political matters.

Soon after we removed over to Long Island,
we heard of the Death of Col: Piper / a very worthy
gent: from Pennsylvania / who had been made
Prisoner in the Action of the 27th of Augt: , and
had for some time been sick of a Fever in New
York. We also about the same time heard of
the Death of Capit: Teller, of Holland in Connecticut
who had been made Prisoner in our Army, Re-
tired from N. York, under pretence , that he had
been somehow suspected of having been concerned
in a late fire, he was kept close Prisoner in

the

The City Hall untill a few Days before we removed over on to this Island: by means of which long, and uncomfortable Confinement, he contracted such a complication of Disorders, as to end his Days soon after he came out of Prison —

There has also a number of other Off^r: Died during the course of our confinement, which I have not yet taken notice of in this Narrative, most of whom I have not been able to learn the particular time of their Death: among whom were Capt: Peoples from Pennsylvania; Capt: Booy & Lt: Butler from Maryland; those three Gent^r: were wounded in the Action of the 27th of Aug^t & died on Long Island: Lt: Shakespeare of the Regt was also wounded some Days of which wound he died at Flatbush the 6th of Oct^r; Lt: Moore of Sumsbury in Connecticut died of sickness in N^r. York the 3^d of Nov^r; Lt: Wheatley of New^r - wick, Lt: Williams of Chatham, Lt: Whiting of

Stratford, & Lt. Gaylord of some part of Connecticut
all Died in N. York.





